

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 3-6, 8, 11-14, 16 and 17 were "objected to".

Independent claim 1 is amended to include the features of "objected to" claim 3, and claim 3 is canceled. Therefore, independent claim 1 should now be allowable.

Independent claim 9 is amended to include the features of "objected to" claim 11, and claim 11 is canceled. Therefore, independent claim 9 should now be allowable.

"Objected to" claims 8, 16 and 17 are amended to be in independent form. Therefore, claims 8, 16 and 17 should now be allowable.

Moreover, the claims are amended to overcome the objection to the disclosure.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2, 4-10 and 12-17 are currently pending, and should all be allowable.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

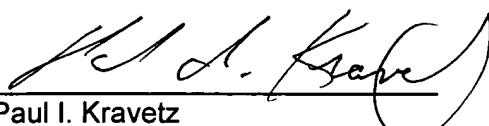
If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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